



Docket No.: 0179-0164P  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Ralf-Peter PETERS et al.

Application No.: 09/623,910

Confirmation No.: 9259

Filed: November 13, 2000

Art Unit: 1743

For: SAMPLE SUPPORT

Examiner: L. Alexander

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 14 of this paper.